

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SAM-01 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 131345Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1730

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) LISBON A-127, NOV. 18, 1974; B) LISBON 825

SUMMARY: MOST PARTIES HAVE DECLARED INTENTION TO RUN CANDIDATES
IN ELECTIONS APRIL 12, AND ARE NOW DRAWING UP LISTS AND WORKING
OUT ALLIANCE STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PERIOD FOR PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS APPROACHES (FEB 27-MARCH 3), A NUMBER OF
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POLITICAL GROUPS HAVE CALLED PRESS CONFERENCES AND ISSUED COM-

MUNIQUE TO ANNOUNCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS.

2. POPULAR MONARCHIST PARTY (PPM) ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD PRESENT CANDIDATES IN ALL 22 DISTRICTS OF COUNTRY. IT ALSO STATED THAT IT, LIKE SOCIALISTS, WOULD NOT FORM COALITION WITH ANY OTHER PARTY, BUT WOULD RUN ALONE.

3. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCI), A TROTSKYITE GROUP STRONGEST IN OPORTO, ALSO ANNOUNCED IT WOULD RUN CANDIDATES AFTER PRESENTING SUPREME COURT WITH REQUIRED SIGNATURES TO BECOME LEGAL.

4. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) HAVE NOT YET LEGALIZED. DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATING IN WORK OF NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION IS FEB. 20, AND FOR RUNNING IN ELECTIONS, MARCH 3. PARTY APPEARS HOPEFUL OF MEETING DEADLINE, HOWEVER, AND HAS SENT SECRETARY-GENERAL SANCHES OSORIO TO ANNUAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (EUCD) IN HOLLAND TO FORMALLY REQUEST PDC ADMISSION TO EUCD.

5. CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (CDS) WILL BE REPRESENTED AT EUCD MEETING BY THEIR SECRETARY-GENERAL AND PRESIDENT, WHO WILL LEAD EUCD ROUNDTABLE ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION. CDS PLANS TO RUN CANDIDATES IN ALL DISTRICTS, AND HAS HINTED TO EMBOFF THAT IT MAY FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH PDC, IF PDC BECOMES LEGAL. CDS SEES THIS AS NECESSARY SINCE PDC PROMISES, ALONG WITH THE MONARCHISTS, TO DRAW OFF SUPPORT FROM CDS ESPECIALLY IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS. CDS WILL FINISH ITS INTERRUPTED CONGRESS IN SECRET THIS MONTH, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED EMBASSY BY PARTY LEADERS.

6. POPULAR DEMOCRATS (PPD) APPAR TO HAVE RESOLVED SOME OF THEIR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES AND ARE PREPARING LISTS OF CANDIDATES BY DISTRICT, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF AN ELECTORAL TASK FORCE UNDER MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MAGALHAES MOTA. THEY WILL BE GIN ANNOUNCING THEIR CANDIDATES NEXT WEEK.

7. DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) HAS HELD MEETINGS IN SOUTH TO DRAW UP LIST OF CANDIDATES, AND APPEAR WELL ALONG IN PROCESS. THEY WILL ELECT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO RUN OVERALL PARTY AFFAIRS.

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8. A NUMBER OF OTHER SMALL FAR LEFT GROUPS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS. PARTIDO DE UNIDADE POPULAR (POPULAR UNITY PARTY--PUP), WHICH IS BASED ON 14 POPULAR UNITY COMMISSIONS AND THE NEWSPAPER A VERDADE, HAS STATED ITS DESIRE TO FORM ELECTORAL FRONT WITH OTHER TROTSKYITE GROUPS LIKE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) AND COMMUNIST ELECTORAL FRONT (FEC-ML) WHICH SHARE SAME REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS.

(FEC, WHICH HELD IT FIRST CONGRESS JANUARY 20, SEEKS SUPPORT OF SAME SMALL TROTSKYITE GROUPS SUPPORTING UDP. SEE REFS FOR FULLER DESCRIPTION.)

9. FINALLY, WORKER-FARMER ALLIANCE (AOC), A MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP STRONG IN CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION, AND CLOSE TO COMMUNIST PARTY-MARXISTA LENINISTA (PC/ML), SAID FEB. 4 IN OPORTO THAT IT TOO WOULD COMPETE IN APRIL 12 ELECTIONS.

10. COMMENT: NUMEROUS FAR LEFT GROUPS UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN 5000 SIGNATURES NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS BY MARCH 3 DEADLINE UNLESS THEY FORM ALLIANCES AND LEND ONE ANOTHER "EXCESS" SIGNATURES. WE WILL PROBABLY SEE A NUMBER OF TACTICAL, AND PERHAPS EPHEMERAL ALLIANCES OF NECESSITY IN NEXT WEEK OR SO AS PARTIES SCRAMBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS. (SO FAR ONLY REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADES (PRP-BR) HAS STATED IT WILL NOT RUN IN ELECTIONS.)
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